



# CFF @ BSSD

News and notes about Classrooms For the Future at Blairsville-Saltsburg School District

## CFF TEACHERS:

- The deadline for completing the CFF Embedded Learning course is **August 31, 2009.**
- CFF Student and Teacher Post Surveys are open **May 25-29.**

## Students Finds Uses for Google Apps

How can **BHS freshmen** collaborate on presentations demonstrating their knowledge of *Romeo & Juliet* from home?

How can **SMHS juniors** receive feedback from their teacher and peer editors in real time, without the use of paper?

The answer is Google Docs. Many have been hesitant to try Google Docs for fear of email issues, account glitches, time consumption, and a host of other reasons. Recently, though, a viable solution has been created at BSSD that eliminates the headache of using Google Docs in a traditional sense.

**Google Apps Education Edition**, a service offered by Google, allows school districts and universities free use of tools such as Calendar, Docs, Presentations, Spreadsheets, Videos and more.

What does that mean for you and your classroom? Students can log on to a secure site with their school username and password and begin using and sharing Google Docs right away. No sign up form or access to email necessary! (Note: Applicable to students 13 years of age and older.)

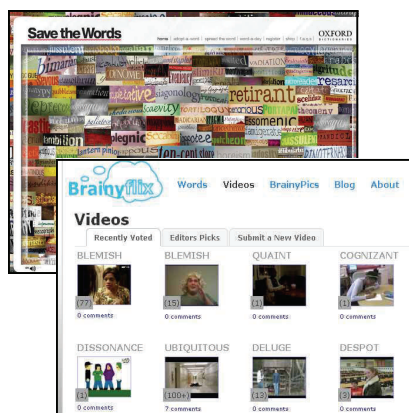
If you have questions or you're interested in using this service with your students, please contact Stacie (isenberg@b-ssd.org) for more information.



Google Apps Education Edition is a free suite of hosted communication & collaboration applications designed for schools and universities.

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## Building Vocabulary

Are you looking for new and interesting ways to help build students' vocabulary?

Recently, students at **SMHS** have been building their skills by submitting to **BrainyFlix.com** films that teach the meaning of SAT vocabulary words. According to the site, "We are a couple of MIT alums who are trying to make SAT prep as fun and free as possible thru the power of user-generated content & peer-to-peer learning." Students select word, create a film, then upload to the site.

Another great way to improve vocabulary is to have students adopt a word from the site **SaveTheWords.org**. Students adopt a word previously removed from the dictionary and vow to use the word as often as possible in order to have it reintroduced.

## Students “Talk” About Films Through Live Blogging

Recently, **BHS** students were offered a new twist on an old idea. Rather than completing a question and answer worksheet while watching a movie, the students were live blogging.

**Scribblelive.com** is a free, live blogging site that allows teachers to post topics to which students respond. Students need not have an account, only the blog host (teacher) needs log in credentials.

Blog creators (teachers) open the blog for comments then

give students the URL address. Students navigate to the URL, enter their name, and begin making comments.

After students begin blogging, teachers can turn moderation on or off, edit or delete comments, “stick” questions to the top of discussions, invite or ban guests, and close the blog to further comments.

Live blogging is a great way for students to discuss a film without the disruption of stopping and starting the movie and noise from side conversations.

**BHS TEWWG film analysis period 3**

1 think the reason that everyone is so worried about what janie does, is because they are jealous of her. they know that all the guys like her, so they think they can learn how to get guys to like them by watching her. (or girls)

Towns people didn't think this would happen. Maybe they think since Joe died that she should be very sad and not flirty with Tea Cake. But as they spend more and more time together they are falling in love, hopefully the towns people won't mind.

janie is thought of as a prude in the town because joe always had her working in some way, he didn't want her to talk to the other people of the town and so they were very surprised when she drank from tea cakes soda and came up on the porch to play checkers. she is having fun with teacake doing things joe never allowed her like fishing in the middle of the night/.

BHS students analyze the film *Their Eyes Were Watching God* through live blogging.



**Are You On Twitter?**

What do Ellen DeGeneres, Discovery Education, and over 121 members of the U.S. Congress have in common? They're all on **Twitter.com**!

Twitter is a social networking and micro-blogging service that allows users to send and receive other users' updates, which are text-based posts of 140 characters or less. Posts (tweets) are displayed on the user's profile page and delivered to other users who have subscribed to them (followers).

So is there educational value in Twitter? Believe it or not—yes! Twitter allows educators to build a professional learning network that extends across the globe. This network allows you to connect your classroom to folks all over the world, offering your students the opportunity to explore other cultures, meet new people, collaborate on projects, and build new relationships. Like any new tool, Twitter is not without controversy; however, responsible use yields positive results.

Additionally, Twitter gives you direct access to experts in a variety of fields. Recently, I posted a question about SMART Board lessons and received an answer directly from SMART in less than 5 minutes!

If you'd like to give it a try, sign up at **Twitter.com**.



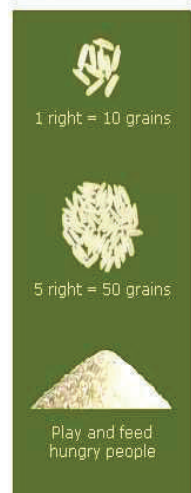
### Fight World Hunger

The next time you want your students to practice basic skills, consider pointing them toward **FreeRice.com**.

Free Rice gives students an ongoing set of multiple choice questions. For each question answered correctly, 10 grains of rice are donated through the UN World Food Program to help end hunger.

Available subject material includes:

- Famous Paintings
- Chemical Symbols
- English Grammar
- English Vocabulary
- Identifying Countries
- World Capitals
- French
- German
- Italian
- Spanish
- Multiplication Tables
- Pre-Algebra



### Next Issue (Last issue of the year):

- Making Math Ringtones
- International Egg Toss
- Logo Match Game
- Keystone Technology Integrators
- Help Improve CFF